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UPCOMING EVENTS

National Family Volunteer Day

November 19, 2005

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvd/>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

January 16, 2006

www.mlkday.org

Earth Day

March 20, 2006

National Youth Service Day

April 21-23, 2006

www.ysa.org/nysd

National Volunteer Week

April 17-23, 2006

www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

National Arbor Day

April 28, 2006

www.arborday.org

A Note from our Executive Director

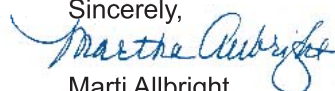
This month was an exciting one for Take Pride as our Schools Program continued to grow, welcoming nine new schools and their students. A care package is on its way to each school, including a certificate designating them as a Take Pride School, several event banners, pencils and bookmarks. We've featured one of our new schools this month, and look forward to hearing from more CREW members as they complete other work projects in their community.

This month, I want to encourage you to volunteer for a minute. Or just a few. Although it's always rewarding to recognize volunteers across the country who have tirelessly given thousands of hours to our Nation's public lands, many people simply don't have that kind of time, or need a place to start. There are so many ways you can participate in citizen stewardship, even with very limited time available on your schedule.

I recently saw a man in Muscatine, Iowa stop his car, get out and pick up a couple of cans that were in the street. It didn't take a lot of his time, but he made a difference. Next time you go for walk, carry a trash bag and multi-task. Ask your mayor to designate your city a Take Pride City. Invite a teacher or principal you know to sign up their school as a Take Pride School.

As we begin to wrap up this year and think ahead to next, I encourage you to plan to take a few minutes or a couple of hours—whatever you can spare—to care for our special legacy of public lands.

Sincerely,



Marti Allbright



The Green Team of Pershing Elementary School joined the Take Pride Schools program this month and completed their first school project.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SPREAD THE SPIRIT OF TAKE PRIDE!

- ✓ Let us know if you have upcoming conferences, award ceremonies, or speaking engagements where you'd like someone from Take Pride to come speak or present an award.
- ✓ Send write ups & action photos after a project. We rely on our volunteers to give us lots of project details and close-up, high resolution pictures to update our website and newsletter.
- ✓ Don't forget to register your upcoming events on our online calendar. It's simple & helps drive up your volunteer turnout!
- ✓ Ask us for promotional event supplies! We have banners, volunteer guides, informational CDs, even small giveaways to say "Thank You" to your volunteers!

Contact us at TakePride@ios.doi.gov or visit www.TakePride.gov.



October 22, 2005: Make A Difference Day

Every year, on the fourth Saturday of October, volunteers of all ages, across the country come together on the Nation's largest day of service to build, beautify, and befriend neighbors down the street and in neighboring towns. The 15th Make A Difference Day, created by USA WEEKEND Magazine in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, brought together 3 million Americans to make a difference in their community.

In Oregon, two cities hosted Take Pride in America events on Make A Difference Day, demonstrating that Oregonians can make a difference in their communities by working together on projects to enhance their local public lands.

SALEM, OREGON

Over 120 volunteers turned out to participate in Salem, Oregon to help rehabilitate a trail in Mento-Brown Island Park. The trail project included local students and families doing their part by helping the Parks Operation Department trim back overgrown brush and blackberry bushes, and lay out new wood chips along a mile long section of trail.

Clubs and groups from all over the community came out to lend a hand, including a local high school Key Club, a local middle school honor society, three packs of cub scouts, environmental clubs from two other local high schools, and several individuals and families.

This was the first Take Pride event hosted by Salem, which was designated a Take Pride in America City by Mayor Janet Taylor in March of 2005.

EUGENE, OREGON

More than 100 volunteers turned out to help put the final touches on the Eugene, Oregon's River Play Park, completing a project nearly eight years in the making. Volunteers as young as three and as experienced as eighty turned out to "Lend A Hand" on the largest, most unique playground in the region.

Whether it was building park benches, assembling swing sets, installing picnic tables, or planting over 1,000 native plants, volunteers dug in to make this a worthwhile effort, creating an area that will be used and appreciated for years to come. Many of Eugene's unique experiences are captured in River Play Park.

As developers designed River Play Park, local parents, students and people with disabilities gave input to help create something accessible to everyone.



Students and cub scouts spread wood chips on the Mento-Brown Island Park trail in Salem, Oregon.



Youth worked to finish this Eugene, Oregon park, a project in the works since 1998.

Guests can climb a small replica of Skinner Butte, uncover fossils at an ancient history sand dig, play with sand and water along a miniature Willamette River, and recreate the life of the original native inhabitants and early settlers of the area at the Kalapuya and pioneer villages.

The project was sponsored by the City of Eugene, a Take Pride City, and was made possible through generous support from the Eugene Rotary Club. The opening of the park is scheduled for Spring 2006.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Pershing Elementary School Goes Green with Pride

When the students of Pershing Elementary School in Orlando, Florida signed on with the Take Pride Schools program, they were already committed to enhancing their school grounds. The Green Team, made up of 10 special education students in Ms. Nancy Radant's class, had completed several tasks to reduce litter and improve the landscaping around the school.

Initially, they picked up all trash from the school property and continue to maintain the new litter-free space as needed. They also put together a video that was broadcast to the entire school in an effort to get everyone involved in keeping the school litter free. "My class felt like celebrities", Nancy Radant said.

Next, the school courtyards were in need of some TLC and the Green Team took control of the overgrown landscaping. The students learned how to recognize weeds, use small hand tools and shape the shrubs. Lastly, with donations from a local landscaper and a generous parent, the students planted shrubbery and flowers in the courtyards and in view of the parent pick up area.

Now, the Green Team is close to finishing their project, with only a few areas remaining, and they are enjoying the results of their hard work. Re-energized by their recent designation as a Take Pride School, they will continue throughout the school year to maintain their newly beautified school grounds.

In Orlando, Florida, The Green Team students and parents plant donated shrubs as part of their ongoing project.



Members of the Green Team measure the growth of newly planted sunflowers as a part of their school grounds improvement activity.

Welcome to the newest Take Pride Schools!

Deer Creek Elementary School in Edmond, OK
Principal Debbie Straughn

Woodman School in Lolo, MT
Principal Louise Rhode

Batesburg-Leesville Elementary School in
Batesburg-Leesville, SC
Principal Darlene Stephens

Big Walnut Elementary School in Sunbury, OH
Principal Peggy McMurry

Southside High School in Elmira, NY
Principal Christopher Keant

CB Greer Elementary in Brunswick, GA
Principal Tony Ethridge

Wayne Elementary School in Corydon, IA
Principal Denise Becker

St. Agnes Academy/St. Dominic School in
Memphis, TN
Principal Barbara Dausch

N.P. Moss Middle School in Lafayette, LA
Principal Charles Richard



David “Big Bear” Johnson Retires Volunteer Post with Secretarial & Presidential Awards

Known affectionately to children as “Big Bear”, David Johnson will retire in December from his volunteer duties at the San Joaquin River Gorge in California, but not without well-deserved recognition. Dave has earned both Secretarial and Presidential Take Pride in America Awards for his more than 4,000 hours volunteered at the Gorge.

David has spent nearly 20 years volunteering with the Bureau of

Land Management. And for the last five years, he’s spent his time at the San Joaquin River Gorge working as a maintenance worker, and a heritage interpreter. In 1996, he was instrumental in getting the Cultural Heritage Awareness Program up and running. Since then, he has provided interpretive and educational programs to over 10,000 youth.

Additionally, David patrols the man-

agement area after dark, preventing vandalism and keeping safe watch over the Gorge. Thanks “Big Bear” for your many years of service.

Take Pride in America administers the Secretarial and Presidential Awards for volunteers who have contributed 3,000 and 4,000 hours of work, respectively, on public lands. To nominate a volunteer who has achieved these merits, please contact Take Pride.

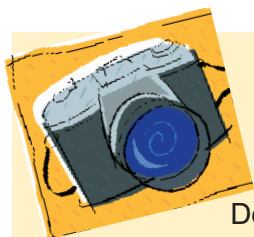
California First Lady’s Conference Shares Message of Take Pride

On October 27, 2005, Michelle Cangelosi, Deputy Director of Take Pride, participated in the California Governor and First Lady’s Conference on Women and Families in Long Beach. Over 10,500 professional women and community leaders attended this conference to hear nationally known keynote speakers, attend seminar sessions and visit over 275 exhibits.

Take Pride in America was one of the few national programs selected to host a booth in the Volunteer Village, an area dedicated to non-profit agencies that encourage volunteerism among Californians.

Visitors to the Take Pride booth saw pictures and video of volunteer projects and were asked to participate in a ‘One Minute Volunteer Project’, by completing a pre-written letter to the school principal of their choice, asking them to sign up for the Take Pride Schools program.

Michelle spoke with visitors from throughout the state, spreading the message of Take Pride and encouraging groups to sign up to receive our newsletters, event listings and other information.



Say Cheese! Photo Contest

Do you have a great shot of Take Pride volunteers hard at work?

We’re looking for your best photo from a recent Take Pride event to be featured in next month’s newsletter. The best photo winner will receive a Take Pride Prize Pack loaded with a logo sweatshirt, water bottle and other Take Pride items.

Be sure to include a caption, and note that any submissions may be used in our newsletter, website or other publications. Please submit photos to jennifer_garrison@ios.doi.gov by Nov. 23 for consideration.

Wanted! Clint Eastwood Sightings

Our broadcast public service announcements featuring Clint Eastwood have aired to over 4 million people on close to 200 stations across the country.

Have you seen it?

If so, write to TakePride@ios.doi.gov and let us know when and where. You’ll help us track the broadcasts so we know where our efforts have been successful.

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of “In Touch With Take Pride.” Please keep sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,

The Take Pride Staff